

CLAIMS

1. A method for awarding a bonus to a user of a wagering or point of sale device at one of a plurality of sites, said method comprising:

5 collecting data relating to player activity at a wagering or point of sale device at each of the sites;

compiling at least some of the data collected from each of the sites;

selecting at least one of the devices at one of the properties;

awarding a bonus to the player of the device; and

10 generating an indication that the player has been awarded a bonus.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein collecting data relating to wagering or point of sale device at each of the sites is performed by a slave server on a computer network at each property.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein compiling at least some of the data
15 is performed by a master server on a network including the slave servers.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said at least one wagering or point of sale device is selected, at least in part, independently of a pay table for said at least one wagering or point of sale device.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said method further includes
20 identifying at least some of the players of the wagering or point of sale device and selecting said at least one player only from identified players.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein said method further includes tracking wagers or purchases made at each wagering or point of sale device having an identified player and wherein compiling at least some of the data
25 includes compiling wagering or purchasing at each wagering or point of sale device having an identified player.

7. A system for awarding a bonus to at least one user of a wagering or point of sale device at one of a plurality of sites, said method comprising:

a slave server at each site, said slave server being on a network of
30 wagering or point of sale devices at its associated property and being programmed

to accumulate a wagering or purchasing count related to use on the networked wagering or point of sale devices;

a master server on a network of the slave servers, said master server being programmed to accumulate the wagering or purchasing counts of each slave server for each identified player; and

a process distributed between the master and slave servers for awarding a bonus to at least one identified player of one of the gaming devices at one of the sites when the accumulated count on the master server reaches or exceeds the random number.

8. A system for tracking play at a pari-mutuel facility, the system comprising:

a patron management database for storing player information including player activity, points, and point redemptions;

an interface module coupled to the patron management database via a TCP/IP link;

a plurality of distributed sites and for each site:

a local player cache capable of storing player information uploaded to the local player cache from the patron management database, and

electronic gaming terminals coupled to the local player cache at which the player makes wagers; and

a bonus engine adapted to transmit payment instructions to the player responsive accumulated play at the electronic gaming terminals.

9. The system of claim 8, wherein the electronic gaming terminals are betting kiosks for placing wagers on pari-mutuel activities.

10. The system of claim 9, wherein the pari-mutuel activities is track betting.

11. A method for awarding bonuses for play of a pari-mutuel wagering event comprising the steps of:

storing in a central patron management server data related to past player wagering activity;

transferring said wagering data to a local player cache responsive to identification of a player wagering at an identified wagering site;

tracking in the local player cache data related to current player wager activity; and

5 awarding a bonus to the identified player responsive to play criteria on the pari-mutuel wagering event exclusive of outcome.

12. The method of claim 11, wherein the play criteria is play of a predetermined number or amount of wagers within a specified time frame.

10 13. The method of claim 12, the bonus including a free race wager for pari-mutuel wagering.

14. The method of claim 12, the bonus including a free multi-use wager for pari-mutuel wagering.

15 15. The method of claim 12, the bonus including a free race wager for pari-mutuel wagering redeemable by the player only until a specific point in the future.

16. The method of claim 12, the bonus including an electronic drawing for pari-mutuel wagering wherein the player receives one of a plurality of tickets and at a predetermined time a winning ticket is selected.

20 17. The method of claim 12, the bonus including an award redeemable at any one of a plurality of sites.

18. The method of claim 12, the bonus including a randomly awarded amount funded by a percentage of the wagers made.

19. The method of claim 11, the method further including the step of determining player eligibility to receive the bonus.

25 20. The method of claim 19, the step of determining player eligibility including making only tracked players eligible for the bonus.

21. The method of claim 20, the step of determining player eligibility including specifying in advance of play a particular time frame in which the player is eligible.

22. The method of claim 20, the step of determining player eligibility including making eligible only those players who make a wager within a predetermined time period.

23. The method of claim 20, the step of determining player eligibility including making eligible only those players that make a predetermined number of visits within a specific time frame.

24. The method of claim 20, the step of determining player eligibility including making eligible those players that play a predetermined exotic wager.

25. The method of claim 24, wherein those exotic wagers are taken from the group consisting of Daily Double, Exacta, Quinella, Trifecta, Pick Three.

26. The method of claim 20, the step of determining player eligibility including making eligible those players who selects a predetermined number of winning wagers.

27. The method of claim 20, wherein eligibility is determined by those players who wager a minimum of monetary amount, on a specific type of wagering, within a specific time frame.

28. A method for awarding a bonus responsive to wagering activity comprising:

collecting within a central database data relating to player wagering activity characterized by a selection by the player of a predicted outcome of a future event;

storing within a database the selected outcome;

awarding a payout to the player if the outcome is satisfied by a determination of the future event; and

awarding a bonus to the player in association with the player wagering activity.

29. The method of claim 28, wherein the bonus is awarded in advance of the determination of the future event.

30. The method of claim 29, wherein the bonus is awarded contemporaneously with the selection by the player of the particular outcome of the future event.

5 31. The method of claim 30, wherein the bonus is awarded via a ticket printed out at a betting terminal.

32. The method of claim 28, wherein the bonus is determined by the predicted outcome.